

Date: Feb. 22, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Wendy Staschke and I live in Guilford. My daughter, Leirion, has Down Syndrome and I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The impact these budget cuts would have on both individuals with disabilities, as well as their families, would be devastating. For years, like her typical peers, my daughter has talked about the type of job she wants to have when she graduates. However, unlike her typical peers, she will need supports to help her find, and keep, a job after graduation. Without supports in place, my daughter will graduate from High School and.....do what? I can't begin to imagine the impact it would have on my daughter to leave school after eighteen years to sit at home. Not to mention the fact that either her father, or I, would have to leave our job to provide supervision for her.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!

Please restore funding for Family Support Grants!

Please restore funding for new families who need Behavioral Support Services!

Please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Wendy Staschke

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